

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 13 are pending in the application after entry of the forgoing amendments.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS:

- Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by either Kageyama et al. (US 2001/0011616 [hereinafter “Kageyama”) or Christenson (U.S. Pat. No. 2, 792,716).
- Claims 3 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Kageyama or Christenson in view of Snow et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,267,840 [hereinafter “Snow”]).
- Claims 4 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kageyama or Christenson in view of Industriewerk Schaeffler (IS) (DT 2 305 476).
- Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kageyama or Christenson in view of Snow, and in view of Industriewerk Schaeffler.

Without conceding to the assertions presented in the Office Action, Applicants incorporate the features of allowable claim 12 into claim 1 to place the present case into immediate condition for allowance.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Appln. No.: 10/623,503

Attorney Docket No.: Q76108

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

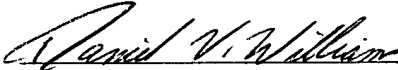
Respectfully submitted,

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